

G.FH
929.20973
GUICE
GUICE

The Christopher Guice Family in America

other families
Harmon, Kinnison, Martin, Siddon

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126 Seal Avenue
Biloxi, Ms 39530

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A most important petition has been located, and is available in the Library of Congress, Colonial Office Records (Class 5: West Florida, Volume 580, page 328, Public Record Office of Great Britain, London). Governor Chester had a hand-written copy made and forwarded this copy to the British Land Office. A letter from the British land office stated "I cannot offer any advice on where the original, if it survives, may now be held." This might explain the reason that the Guice family left Natchez. Note: I made a great effort to locate the original because the signatures are very important.

This important petition reflects the concerns of the inhabitants of the Natchez district with the British government. In the past many inhabitants had left this district because of the use of Indians with the British troops to protect its citizens. The current inhabitants did not feel safe with the defense of their district in the hands of the Indians.

The Honorable Colonel John Stuart, mentioned in this petition, was a neighbor of Christopher Guice. Colonel Stuart was Superintendent of Indian Affairs for that area South of the Ohio River. Colonel Stuart died two months after the signing of this petition on March 17, 1779. The Indians, as defenders of the Natchez district, were not dependable, their hunting season and other tribal activities were of primary importance.

PETITION BY THE ENGLISH INHABITANTS OF THE NATCHEZ AREA IN 1779
TO THE BRITISH

Sir

Natches January 17, 1779

TO HIS EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR CHESTER

We, His Majesty's Dutiful and Loyal Subjects, Inhabitants of the Natches, beg leave to acknowledge our sincere and hearty thanks for your Excellency's great care and attention to this District and the various measures from time to time adopted for the Defense thereof by which means our Enemies are, and have been, much awed by this part of the Country protected and defended and our property safely preserved and kept from such fate as hath been often devised and decreed against it. Permit us to assure your Excellency that our weak endeavors were ever exerted, never failing to assemble on all occasions when called upon by Colonel Hutchins, who on alarms hath often required our attendance, and the same Loyal Principles we hope will ever govern us to act with spirit in the future on such emergencies. You also have our thanks for appointing him to preside here, who is more likely than any other person yet offered to defend this District, to be useful in other respects and to yield a general satisfaction to our most virtuous inhabitants.

We do also most heartily thank the Honorable Colonel John Stuart, ESQ., for the aid of his Loyal Refugees under Captain Jackson's command who have been very useful to us. And also for the Company under the command of Captain William McIntosh, lately arrived, and hope they will be of no less service. And as it is reported by Captain McIntosh and William Bethune that Indians are to be sent here, we do most ardently beg and request that no such may ever appear amongst us under the name of a defense, as most of us are too well acquainted with the Indians to put the least

confidence in them. And as we conceive that would be as useless and burdensome at this time as those heretofore sent to the District. What more, therefore, can we expect of them now than at that time can they answer any other purpose than to Destroy the Province that ought to support and sustain this Post, and to keep us in bodily fear.

The Indians formerly sent here was a reason why many People and families left their Habitations. But another such visit forced upon us, we fear, will add to an unhappiness and too, probably to the Country's desolation.

And we, a Loyal people, why then shall we be forced to leave our settlement and fly to a Despotick Dominion.

We are informed of a report in Pensacola, that the Inhabitants of this District whose cattle have been slaughtered for the support of the Troops and the Indians, were contented with the price of five dollars per hundred, which report we declare to be exceeding wrong and that we have always thought, and yet think it ought not to be less than six Dollars and a Quarter and hope that price will be made good to those Injured people whose Beeves have converted to the King's use at an under rate.

We beg leave to wish Your Excellency the Compliments of the season, with perfect health, length of days, long to preside and your Administration happy under the auspicious reign of our rightful Sovereign, enthroned on a Glorious Constitution; is the prayer of

Sir Your most Devoted and Obedient Humble Servants:

To His Excellency Governor Chester

1st list	2nd list	3rd list
Silas Crane	Thomas Dyer	Thomas Carter
Christopher Mair	John Dyson	David Holt
Abednigo Llewellyn	James Coplen	Ebebezer Gawsett*
Charles Allen	Benjamin Carroll	Richard Dun*
Parker Carridine	John Carrel	Samuel Heady
William Ratliff	Francis Steed*	Daniel Gardner
Johnas Gardner	David Wallman*	Jacob Stampley
Lewis Bingamon*	David Wallman, Jr.*	Dibdall Holt
Nathaniel Johnson*	Soloman Wallman*	Henry Stampley*
Israel Matthews	Luke Sexton*	Peter Stampley*
John Ellis, Sr.	William Meaks	Henry Platna*
Cephas Kenard	Francis Meek	Jesse Carter
Thomas Jordan	Samuel Osborne	Isaac Alexander
William Joyner	Alexander Boyd	Nathan Swayze
Coleby Rucker*	John Smith	James Wilson*
Charles Simmons*	George Stampley*	Ira Witmore
Clement Dyson Sr.	Stephen Dalba (Dalla?)*	
Clement Dyson Jr.	Jeremiah Routh	
Joseph Dyeer		

<i>4th list</i>	<i>5th list</i>	<i>6th list</i>
<i>Daniel Maygott</i>	<i>Joseph Andrus</i>	<i>Isaac Johnson</i>
<i>Elijah Leonard</i>	<i>Isiah Flower</i>	<i>Stephen Swayze</i>
<i>Samuel Frazer</i>	<i>Joseph Halford</i>	<i>Richard Swayze, Jr.</i>
<i>Edward Carloss</i>	<i>Philip Alston</i>	<i>Bosman Hayes</i>
<i>Isaac Sheldon</i>	<i>John McCoy Alston</i>	<i>Elizah Swayze</i>
<i>John Felt</i>	<i>John Terry</i>	<i>Samuel Swayze</i>
<i>Joel Weed</i>	<i>John Staybraker</i>	<i>John Holston*</i>
<i>C. Bingamon</i>	<i>Joseph Schofield</i>	<i>Nathaniel Kennison*</i>
<i>Thaddeus Lyman</i>	<i>John Horsler</i>	<i>Abraham Horton*</i>
<i>Nehemiah Carter</i>	<i>Nathaniel Ive*</i>	<i>James Oglesby*</i>
<i>Senno E. Dwight</i>	<i>William W. Weber*</i>	<i>Samuel Philips*</i>
<i>Thomas James</i>	<i>John Gayle</i>	<i>Thomas Love</i>
<i>Josheau Howard</i>	<i>James Hannon</i>	<i>James Perry*</i>
<i>Jacob Cobeen (Coburn)</i>	<i>William Oglesby</i>	<i>John Shunk*</i>
<i>Samuel Gibson</i>	<i>John Hide</i>	<i>John Row</i>
<i>Patt Clemons</i>	<i>Anthony Hamberston*</i>	<i>Caleb King</i>
<i>Absalom Hooper</i>	<i>Roger Harmen</i>	<i>Justus King</i>
<i>Stephen Holsten</i>	<i>Hezekiah Harmon</i>	<i>William Hayes</i>
<i>Anthony Brabnazon</i>	<i>Elisha Flower</i>	<i>Ephraim Goble</i>
<i>Stephen Jourden*</i>	<i>Mathias Friley*</i>	<i>Thomas Atkinson</i>
<i>James Simmons*</i>	<i>James Crungetten</i>	<i>Thomas Holmes</i>
<i>Sterling Spell*</i>	<i>William Ellis Sr.</i>	<i>Justus Swayze Ogden</i>
<i>Stephen Mayes</i>	<i>William Ellis</i>	<i>James Clayton</i>
<i>John Ogg</i>	<i>Immanuel Madden*</i>	<i>William Hulbard</i>
<i>Robert Dunbar</i>	<i>John Choty*</i>	<i>Job Cory</i>
<i>Earl Douglas</i>	<i>Richard King</i>	<i>Ephriam Thornell</i>
<i>Timothy Hotchkiss</i>	<i>John Holt*</i>	<i>Thomas Harmon</i>
<i>M. Phelps</i>		<i>Wm Reed</i>

7th list

Samuel Lewis, Francis Spain, Christopher Guise, Sr., Jonathan Guise, David Guise, Manuel Guise, Christopher Guise, Jr., Jacob Harmon, James Truly, Joseph Standlie, William Smith, John Ryan, John Talley*, James Lefloe, Oliver Lyman, John Absheir*, Jacob Paul, Hardis Ellis.*

* Indicates person signed with a mark.

SPANISH PROVINCE

On June 21, 1779 Spain declared war against England. This action caught the British officials in West Florida and the Spanish in Louisiana by surprise. Fort Panmure at Natchez was in good condition. The British fortifications at Baton Rouge were erected with thirteen British cannons and a garrison of 400 regular troops and 150 settlers with armed Negroes.